



**Darlington Park Concept Plan Community Input Meeting Minutes**

**Location: Darlington Elementary School, Darlington, Maryland**

**Date: April 1, 2010, 6:00 p.m.**

**Harford County Representatives:**

David Goodwin, Harford County, Department of Parks & Recreation

Rick Howe, Harford County, Department of Parks & Recreation, Pres. of Rec. Council

Karen Green, Harford County, Department of Parks & Recreation, Recreation Specialist

**Presenter / Design Team:**

David Goodwin, Harford County, Department of Parks & Recreation

Kenneth M. Usab, P.E., Morris & Ritchie Associates, Inc. (MRA)

**Meeting Summary:**

An overview of project history and current proposal for development was presented to the community by David Goodwin and Kenneth M. Usab. Key points from the initial presentation are summarized as follows:

- The project entails establishing an active recreation Community Park in Darlington on a site purchased by Harford County for a Community Park.
- The project is located on an 11.5 acre site. The project will be developed in at least two (2) phases, the first phase being construction of a multi-purpose athletic field, parking, drainage and stormwater management facilities. The second phase will include construction of a storage building / restroom facility and pavilion. The existing forested area will remain.
- An overall master plan was developed by MRA showing the entire project.
- No field lighting is proposed.

**Public Comment / Question & Answer:**

**Lester Lukasik, 4555 Conowingo Road, Darlington, MD 21034:**

**Comments:**

Mr Lukasik expressed concern regarding trash from past event parking on the existing park property. He was concerned that there would be an increase in trash blowing onto his property.



**Response:**

Mr. Goodwin stated that the County will be responsible for regular trash removal. Mr. Howe stated that the Recreation Council would work closely with the coaches to ensure that the recreation teams are to take care of the facilities and trash during games.

**Ms. Elizabeth Batton / Sean Jedlicka, 4545 Conowingo Road, Darlington, MD 21034:**

**Comments:**

Ms. Batton stated that she had horses on her property and has significant concerns about the safety of children and construction of a Public Athletic Facility next to her property. She would prefer that the park be constructed in another location.

But if the County moves forward with a Park in this location, Ms. Batton and Mr. Jedlicka's other concerns are listed as follows:

- The property owner maintains an electric fence along the common property line. They are concerned that children may be injured by the electric fence.
- Ms. Batton and Mr. Jedlicka are concerned regarding their liability should children trespass on their property and be injured by the horses.
- They do not want the horses to be fed by patrons of the park.
- They are concerned that children will throw balls onto their property that could pose a risk to their animals or children trying to retrieve their balls.
- They do not want the picnic area in the vicinity of the Septic Reserve Area.
- They want the entrance driveway to be moved to the east.
- They want the storage building / restroom facilities to be moved further from their property.
- They want a tall fence and trees planted up to US Route 1 along the entire property line
- They are concerned that the noise from the park and children may spook the horses and cause the horses, children or riders to be injured.
- They would prefer to not have lighting in the park.

**Response:**

The County will be responsible for maintenance of the property and trash removal. The configuration of the entrance, fields and facilities were placed based on a detailed site evaluation to minimize impacts on adjacent properties. The field is set approximately 6 feet below the grade on the adjacent property and over 100 feet from the horses which should minimize "stray balls" being directed toward the



Batton / Jedlicka property. The Department of Parks & Recreation will review the potential for installing landscape buffers and fences to minimize issues between park use and impacts to the adjacent property. The Department of Parks & Recreation will review the placement of the picnic area and storage / restroom building considering the comments. Karen Green stated that she would like Ms. Batton and Mr. Jedlicka to attend a Recreation Council Meeting to explain their concerns to the Council. Additional park signage and rules will be considered to address the concerns of Ms. Batton and Mr. Jedlicka.

**Ms. Gretchen Baker, 4541 Conowingo Road, Darlington, MD 21034:**

**Comments:**

Ms Baker expressed concerns about the impact of the park on her view of the surrounding area. She expressed concern regarding use of the park by children since she regularly discharges firearms on the adjacent property and was concerned about having children in the wooded portion of the park property. She stated that the Property was re-zoned by a former County Council member who owned the property for a "fruit stand" prior to sale to the County and that this was a more intensive use. She requested that a fence and landscape screen be installed to maintain her view.

**Response:**

Mr. Goodwin stated that the Department of Parks & Recreation will look at the potential for landscape screening.

**Mr. C.L. Robertson, Jr., 4553 Conowingo Road, Darlington, MD 21034:**

**Comments:**

Mr. Robertson stated that he would like the "temporary" power poles removed from the Northeast corner of the property. He was very concerned about truck parking and wants the County to install a gate or other means to prevent overnight vehicle parking. He was also concerned regarding the aesthetics of the retaining wall.

**Response:**

Mr. Goodwin stated that the Department of Parks & Recreation will consider installing a gate and MRA will prepare planting plans for the retaining wall area. Mr. Usab stated that a fence and landscaping will be installed along the top of the retaining wall. In addition, trees will be planted at the base of the retaining wall to



“soften” the look of the wall. Mr. Usab stated that the wall will likely be constructed using split faced masonry units, similar to typical “landscape walls”.

**Mr. Matthew Payne, Jr., 4429 Conowingo Road, Darlington, MD 21034:**

**Comments:**

Mr. Payne lives farther away from the site and will not be affected. He was interested learning more about the project and has no objections.

**Specific Areas of Interest Expressed by Most Residents’ During the Meeting:**

- Consider options for fences / landscaping.
- Consider constructing Park in another location
- Look at options for restricting access after dark with a gate.

It was announced that this Plan will be reviewed / modified by County Parks & Recreation Staff based on public input and submitted for Development Advisory Committee review. Mr Goodwin recommended that concerned residents review their concerns with their County Council Representative. MRA will prepare minutes for the meeting and forward them to meeting attendees. A copy of the CIM attendee list is attached.



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☐ CMS ☐ LMW ☐ CBS  
☐ DAH ☐ WLK ☐ FTT

Job No. 16516

By \_\_\_\_\_

Date 4/1/10

Job Name HARFORD COUNTY - DARLINGTON PARK

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNITY INPUT MEETING

NAME ADDRESS PHONE/EMAIL

- 1) KENNETH M. USAB, P.E. MORRIS & RITCHIE ASSOC. 443-286-5490  
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- 2) Elizabeth Bollen 4545 CONOWINGO RD. 410-457-0144  
Sean Jedlicka Darlington MD STJEDLIKA@CCPS.ORG
- 3) C.L. Roberts Jr. 4553 CONOWINGO RD 410-457-4728  
Darlington Md.
- 4) Rick Howe → 2100 TRAPE CHURCH RD DARLINGTON, MD 21034 410-457-4849  
Dublin Darling Rec Council  
5 LESTER LUKASIK 4555 CONOWINGO RD 410-457-4747
- 6) MATTHEW PAYNE 4429 CONOWINGO RD 410-457-9084  
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- 7) Stephen Funk 1165 Priestland Rd 410-658-4873  
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- 8) Gretchen Baker 4541 Conowingo Rd 410-457-4524  
Darlington, MD 21034
- 9) Karen Green 351 Lewis Lane 410-939-6724  
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Job No. \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Job Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

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